

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An interface for connecting one of a plurality of industrial machines having different data format and storage configurations to a communications medium for remote monitoring and control, includes a programmable apparatus having a memory for storing data in predetermined locations and in a predetermined format, and for storing configuration information relating to the at least one of the machines; a configurable electrical interface responsive to the configuration information for receiving machine data from the machine and sending data to the machine; a data translator responsive to the configuration information, receiving data from the interface and transforming the data to the predetermined format; a processor responsive to the configuration information for reading data from and writing data to the predetermined locations in the memory; and a communications port connected to the communications medium.